

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-25. **(Cancelled)**

26. **(Original)** A rotor for a rotary-wing aircraft, the rotor assembly comprising:

a central member;

a plurality of blade attachment members adapted for attaching rotor blades to the central member, the blade attachment members being pivotally attached to the central member and capable of pivoting about a pivot axis generally normal to a plane of rotation of the blades, the pivoting allowing for in-plane motion of the blades relative to the central member; and

a damper having a housing and a piston movably carried within the housing, the piston having fluid passages therethrough and valve means for controlling the flow of fluid through at least one of the passages, the piston being sealingly connected to an inner surface of the housing with deformable elements, the deformable elements allowing movement of the piston relative to the housing through elastic shearing of the deformable elements, the deformable elements also being deformable by a force exerted by the piston on a fluid in communication with the deformable elements through bulging deformation of the deformable elements, the valve means allowing for selective switching between a first spring rate, in which elastic shearing provides a dominant spring force, and a second spring rate, in which bulging deformation provides the dominant spring force;

wherein each damper is operably connected to an inner end of each blade attachment member for damping the in-plane motion of the associated blade.

The Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the application.